
The 1808 CE *'Brief History of Diān'*

An Annotated Translation of Selected Parts of Zhāng Ruòsù's 《滇云纪略》

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The Yúnnán Papers

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This series does not aim to present any new research but to allow an English-speaking audience to better understand Yúnnán's history and culture through original texts. The texts are heavily annotated, giving geographical, historical and cultural background information and references to contemporary academic discussions.

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Contents

1	Introduction	5
2	About this Translation	5
3	Annotated Translation	5
	上卷	5
	蜀汉 The Shǔ Hàn	5
4	Glossary	6
5	References	8
	Index	9

Illustrations

1	The Shǔ Hàn 蜀汉 Period in the 《滇云纪略》	6
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1 Introduction

The ‘*Brief History of Diān*’ 《滇云纪略》 is one of the many private provincial histories of Yúnnán written during the Míng and Qīng dynasty. Compiled by the Qīng official Zhāng Ruòsù 张若骙, who first came to the region in 1762 CE, the work was printed in 1808 CE.

As the work is highly derivative, it is rarely mentioned in academic works.

However, the text contains a section with details of Zhūgé Liàng 诸葛亮’s military campaign against the Yúnnán leader Mèngguò 孟获, noting seven locations where he was said to be defeated. As these details are not present in any earlier source,⁽¹⁾ it appears very likely that they are taken from folk stories and do not represent historic truth: as such the inclusion of these details reveals how much folk stories became part of unofficial local history writing.

2 About this Translation

Scans of copies of the ‘*Brief History of Diān*’ 《滇云纪略》 are available at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:%E6%BB%87%E9%9B%B2%E7%B4%80%E7%95%A5>.

I am not aware of any English translation of the text.

3 Annotated Translation

上卷

The first *juàn* of the 《滇云纪略》 contains a chronological history of events in Yúnnán starting from the Zhōu 周.

蜀汉 The Shǔ Hàn

The ‘*Records of the Three Kingdoms*’ 《三国志》, the official history of the period composed in the 3rd century, mentions Zhūgé Liàng campaign against Nánzhōng 南中, but does not mention Mèngguò 孟获, the local leader, let alone detailing the campaign. Here, the story of 孟获 being captured and released seven times ‘*qīqín qīzòng* 七擒七纵’ that first surfaced in the ‘*Chronicles of the States South of Mt. Huá*’ 《华阳国志》 is embellished with detailed locations.⁽²⁾ The locations mentioned all lie in the far west of Yúnnán, a region that Zhūgé Liàng is unlikely to have ever reached,⁽³⁾ suggesting that the locations mentioned here have more to do with the places Zhāng Ruòsù 张若骙 worked in during his period in Yúnnán than historic truth.

建兴三年三月武侯率众征孟获七擒 | In the 3rd month of the 3rd year of Jiànxīng the Marquis of Wǔ led

r1: In the 3rd month of the 3rd year of Jiànxīng] 225 CE

r1: Marquis of Wǔ] i.e. Zhūgé Liàng 诸葛亮

⁽¹⁾ Indeed the whole story around Mèngguò has been questioned in its veracity by many scholars, see e.g. Fāng Guóyú 方国瑜 (1980), p. 43.

⁽²⁾ The story was dramatized in the Míng dynasty ‘*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*’ 《三国演义》 but even there exact locations were not given.

⁽³⁾ see Peng (2011), pp. 142–143.

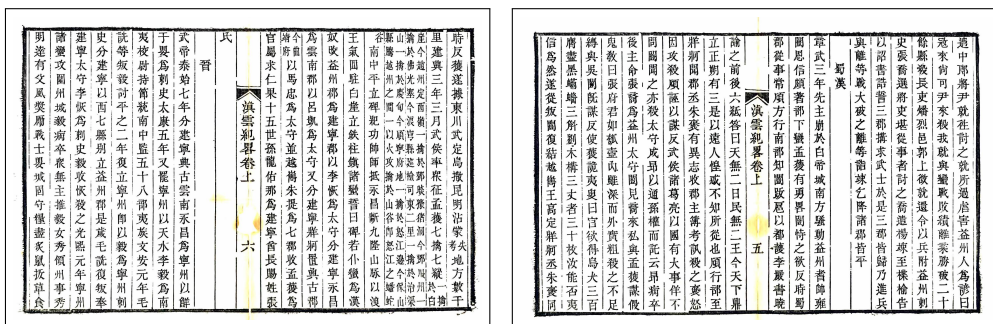


Illustration 1:
The Shǔ Hàn 蜀汉 Period in the 《滇云纪略》

From <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:>

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E5%98%B6%E6%85%B6%E5%8D%81%E4%B8%89%E5%B9%B4_\(1808\).pdf](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E5%98%B6%E6%85%B6%E5%8D%81%E4%B8%89%E5%B9%B4_(1808).pdf)

- 七纵
- 一擒于白崖今赵州定西岭
- 一擒于邓賒獠猪洞今邓川州
- 一擒于佛光寨今浪穹县巡检司东二里
- 一擒于治渠山
- 一擒于爰甸今顺宁府地
- 一擒于怒江边今保山县腾越州之间
- 一以火攻擒于山谷即怒江之躡蛇谷

- toops on a campaign to capture and release Mèngguò seven times.
- The first capture was in Báiyá, which is now Dìngxī ridge in Zhàozhōu.
- The second capture was in Dèngshē Háo zhū cave, which is now in Dèngchuān.
- The third capture was in Fóguāng Zhài, two ǐ east of today's Làngqióng county military inspectorate.
- The fourth capture was on Zhìqú mountain.
- The fifth capture was in Àidiàn, in the area of today's Shùnínng prefecture.
- The sixth capture on the banks of the Nùjiāng, between today's Bǎoshān county and Téngyuè prefecture.
- And he was captured using a fire attack in a mountain valley, i.e. Nùjiāng's Fánshé valley.

4 Glossary

Báiyá 白崖: pre-Nánzhào polity, thought to have been in present-day Mídù 弥渡 valley – see page 6

Bǎoshān 保山: present-day important city, the historic Yǒngchāng 永昌 – see page 6, see 永昌

Dèngchuān 邓川: – see page 6

Diānyún Jìlùè 《滇云纪略》: ‘Brief History of

l5: 獠猪] The first character is written as < [] 獠 >, see illustration 1 and also Dèng Pèi 邓沛 (2002), p. 76.

r7: Fóguāng Zhài] Fóguāng Zhài 佛光寨 was the location of a significant standoff between Míng dynasty troops and resisting local forces in 1382 CE, see Lián Ruìzhī 连瑞枝 (2020), pp. 34–38.

Diān’, private history of Yúnnán, written by ?? in 1808 – see page 5, 6

Dōng Hàn 东汉: Eastern Hàn, Chinese dynasty, 25–220 – see page 6

Ērhǎi 洱海: lake Ērhǎi, highland lake in western Yúnnán with the center of Nánzhào on its western side. It was also called Xiě 西洱, Xiěhé 西洱河 – see page 6

- Fóguāng Zhài** 佛光寨: Fóguāng stockade, mountain stronghold north of Ěrhǎi, site of resistance against the Míng Cháo 明朝 in 1382 CE, see Lián Ruìzhī 连瑞枝 (2020), pp. 34–38 – see page 6, 7
- Fǔ** 府: prefecture, – see page 6, 7
- Guìzhōu** 贵州: today a province in south-west China –
- Hàn Cháo** 汉朝: Hàn dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 202 BCE–220 – see page 7
- Hàn** 汉: Hàn, main ethnic group of China – see page 6, 7
- Huáyáng Guó Zhì** 《华阳国志》: ‘*Chronicles of the States South of Mt. Huá*’, – see page 5, 7
- Jiàn xīng** 建兴: first reign period of Shǔ Hàn 蜀汉 emperor Liú Shàn 刘禅, 223–237 – see page 5, see 刘禅
- Làngqióng** 浪穹: one of the five Zhào – see page 6
- Liú Shàn** 刘禅: second ruler of Shǔ Hàn 蜀汉, 207–271 –
- Mèng huò** 孟获: tribal leader during the Sānguó 三国 period – see page 5, 6
- Mídù** 弥渡: valley south of Ěrhǎi –
- Míng Cháo** 明朝: Míng dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 1368–1644 – see pages 5–7
- Míng** 明: Míng, usually referring to the Míng Cháo 明朝 – see page 7
- Nánzhào** 南诏: southern zhào, regional power with its center on Ěrhǎi during the 8th and 9th centuries – see page 7
- Nánzhōng** 南中: ‘most common name for the southwest region (Yunnan, Guizhou, and southern Sichuan) prior to the Tang dynasty’, Herman (2009) – see page 5
- Nùjiāng** 怒江: Nù river, major river in western Yunnan, the Salween – see page 6, 7
- Qīng dynasty** 清朝: Qīng dynasty, last dynasty of imperial China, 1644–1912 BCE – see page 5, 7
- Sānguó** 三国: Three Kingdoms, period after the Dōng Hàn 东汉, with three powers dominating China, 220–280 – see page 7
- Sānguó Yǎnyì** 《三国演义》: ‘*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*’, famous Míng dynasty novel – see page 5, 7
- Sānguó Zhì** 《三国志》: ‘*Records of the Three Kingdoms*’, official history of Wèi 魏, Shǔ and Wú 吴 – see page 5, 7
- Shǔ** 蜀: name of a state during the Warring States period, later used to refer to the western part of present-day Sìchuān –
- Shǔ Guó** 蜀国: state of Shǔ, one of the states of the Sānguó 三国, later also used as a term for present-day Sìchuān – see page 7
- Shǔ Hàn** 蜀汉: Shǔ Hàn, westernmost of the three kingdoms during the Sānguó 三国 period, 221–263 – see page 7
- Shùnníng** 顺宁: – see page 6
- Sìchuān** 四川: Chinese province –
- Táng Cháo** 唐朝: Táng dynasty, Chinese dynasty, 618–907 – see page 7
- Téngyuè** 腾越: – see page 6
- Wèi** 魏: one of the states of the Sānguó 三国 –

- Wú** 吳: one of the states of the Sānguó 三国 –
- Wǔ Hóu** 武侯: marquis of Wǔ, title of Zhūgéliàng 诸葛亮 – see page 5, 8, see 诸葛亮
- Xiàn** 县: county, administrative unit – see page 6, 8
- Xúnjiǎnsī** 巡检司: military inspectorate, ‘primarily located in frontier areas but eventually in most units of territorial administration; responsible for local militia training, suppression of banditry, etc.; subordinate to the regular military hierarchy,’ see Hucker (1985), 2274 – see page 6, 8
- Yǒngchāng** 永昌: present-day Bǎoshān, a Chinese outpost founded in 69, see Fāng Guóyú 方国瑜 (1953) –
- Yúnnán** 云南: at the time of the Táng dynasty the name for the geographic region south of its Jiannan district – see page 5
- Zhāng Ruòsù** 张若骞: Qīng dynasty official, compiled the 《滇云纪略》 – see page 5
- zhào** 诏: zhào, term for a local ruler or his realm – see page 8
- Zhàozhōu** 赵州: historic name for present-day Fèngyí 凤仪 – see page 6
- Zhōu** 周: Zhōu, 1022–256 BCE, early Chinese dynasty – see page 5, 8
- Zhōu** 州: prefecture, administrative unit – see page 6, 8
- Zhūgé Liàng** 诸葛亮: historic and legendary official of Shǔ 蜀, see Crespigny (2007), p. 1172 – see page 5

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Index

225 年, 5-1*n*

1382 年, 6-7*n*

1762 年, 5

1808 年, 5

Báiyá 白崖, 6-3R

Bǎoshān 保山, 6-13R

Dèngchuān 邓川, 6-6R

Diānyún Jìlùè 滇云纪略, 5

Fóguāng Zhài 佛光寨, 6-7R, 6-7*n*

Fǔ 府, 6-11R

Huáyáng Guó Zhì 华阳国志, 5

Jiànxīng 建兴, 5-1R

Làngqióng 浪穹, 6-8R

Mèng huò 孟获, 5, 6-2R

Míng Cháo 明朝, 5, 6-7*n*

Nánzhōng 南中, 5

Nùjiāng 怒江, 6-12R, 6-15R

Qīng Cháo 清朝, 5

Sānguóyǎnyì 三国演义, 5

Sānguó Zhì 三国志, 5

Shùnníng 顺宁, 6-10R

Téngyuè 腾越, 6-13R

Wǔ Hóu 武侯, 5-1R

Xúnjiǎnsī 巡检司, 6-8R

Yúnnán 云南, 5

Zhāng Ruòsù 张若骞, 5

Zhàozhōu 赵州, 6-4R

Zhōu 周, 5

Zhōu 州, 6-13R

Zhūgé Liàng 诸葛亮, 5, 5-1*n*